

DECK THE HALL, FA-LA-LA-LA

3-pt Mixed (opt baritone), accompanied

Arranged by Becki Slagle Mayo and Lynn Shaw Bailey



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Range:

Part I  Part II 

Part III 

Language: English

Use: Holiday

Time: Approx. 2:20

*Difficulty: Moderate

Performance Notes

Deck the Hall is a classic secular carol dating from the sixteenth century whose music originated from a Welsh New Year's carol called *Nos Galan*. It is commonly thought that the words and music resemble the popular sixteenth-century madrigal from the English Renaissance. Mozart "borrowed" this well-known melody for a violin and piano duet he wrote during the eighteenth century.

Originally, *Deck the Hall* was written to be a festive Christmas party or dancing song. If instruments were not used, the singer's "fa la la la" helped keep time for the dancers. The lyrics "follow me in merry measure" signify dancing, as the word "measure" is a synonym for dance. The word "hall" probably refers to the great castles of feudal England that would have been decorated for Christmas. "Boughs of holly" are large branches of greenery used to decorate during the winter holiday season. "See the *blazing Yule* before us" invokes the customary belief that it was good luck to bring in a Yule log that was long enough to burn all night long on New Year's Eve, also known as Yule. "Strike the harp and join the chorus" may suggest the Welsh musical practice of *Canu Penillion*, where voices improvise over a traditional melody played by the harp.

Throughout the $\frac{2}{4}$ measures, the note articulation symbol is called a "mezzo staccato" and indicates that the words should be sung with a slight detachment between notes.

There are places where Part III differs in rhythms and words from Parts I and II. Learn these sections well and sing with confidence. Especially enjoy the playful polyphony in mm. 48-56.

As you sing this carol, know you are celebrating many rich traditions that have been passed on for centuries.

About the Arrangers

Becki Slagle Mayo has been active as a church musician and music educator for the past 30 years. As a composer and arranger, she has published over 100 songs, choral anthems, and piano arrangements, including her own solo piano collection. Becki is a graduate of Campbellsville College in music education, with a master's degree in piano performance from Mankato State University. Becki's website is www.beckimayo.com.

Lynn Shaw Bailey (b.1955) is a creative and innovative composer, arranger, lyricist and writer known best for her choral music. Published by more than a dozen companies, her music includes hundreds of sacred and educational works for adult, youth and children's choirs, as well as compositions for piano, organ, hand-bells and instrumental ensembles.

Lynn's professional affiliations include: American Choral Directors Association, Texas Music Educators Association, Choristers Guild and the American Society of Composers, Authors & Publishers (ASCAP), where she has annually received ASCAP Awards since 1995.

Lynn studied music at Oklahoma Baptist University and received the 2005 OBU Alumni Profiles in Excellence award for her compositions, as well as her fine arts education advocacy work. Lynn also holds degrees in journalism and nursing. She is frequently on the campus of Baylor University where she continues her music studies and mentors graduate and undergraduate students. A native of Georgia, she now lives in Waco, Texas. Lynn's website is www.LynnShawBailey.com.

Deck the Hall, Fa la la la

for Three-part Mixed Voices (Optional Baritone) with Piano

Traditional Welsh Carol

Arranged by Becki Slagle Mayo and Lynn Shaw Bailey

Festive! (♩ = 120)

Piano



mf

The piano introduction consists of two staves. The right hand plays a series of chords in a descending sequence, while the left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The tempo is marked as Festive! (♩ = 120).

4

Part I
Part II

mf unis.

'Tis the sea - son to be jol - ly.

Part III
(opt. Baritone)

mf

'Tis the sea - son.



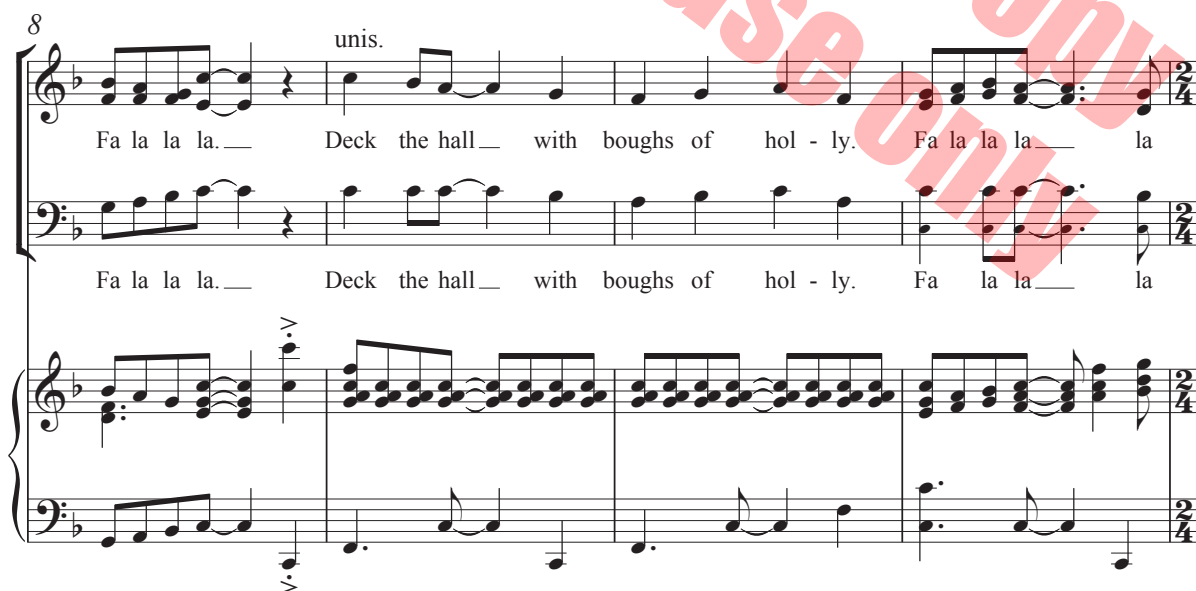
This section contains three systems of staves. The first system shows the vocal parts (Part I, Part II, and Part III) and the piano accompaniment. The vocal parts enter with the lyrics "'Tis the sea - son to be jol - ly." and are marked *mf unis.* The piano accompaniment continues with the same accompaniment as in the introduction. The second system shows the vocal parts and piano accompaniment for the second phrase of the first system, with the lyrics "'Tis the sea - son." and a *mf* dynamic marking.

8

unis.

Fa la la la. — Deck the hall — with boughs of hol - ly. Fa la la la — la

Fa la la la. — Deck the hall — with boughs of hol - ly. Fa la la — la



This section contains three systems of staves. The first system shows the vocal parts and piano accompaniment for the second phrase of the second system, with the lyrics "Fa la la la. — Deck the hall — with boughs of hol - ly. Fa la la la — la" and a *unis.* dynamic marking. The piano accompaniment continues with the same accompaniment. The second system shows the vocal parts and piano accompaniment for the third phrase of the second system, with the lyrics "Fa la la la. — Deck the hall — with boughs of hol - ly. Fa la la — la". The piano accompaniment continues with the same accompaniment. The third system shows the vocal parts and piano accompaniment for the final phrase of the second system, with the lyrics "Fa la la la. — Deck the hall — with boughs of hol - ly. Fa la la la — la". The piano accompaniment continues with the same accompaniment.

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12

unis.

la la la. 'Tis the sea - son to be jol - ly.
la la la. 'Tis the sea - son to be jol - ly.

Piano accompaniment for measures 12-15, featuring a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

16

Fa la la la — la la la la. Sing we joy - ous
Fa la la — la la la la. Sing, O sing, we all

Piano accompaniment for measures 16-19, featuring a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

20

all to - geth - er. Fa la la la la.
— to - geth - er. Fa la la la la.

Piano accompaniment for measures 20-23, featuring a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

23

Heed - less of ___ the wind and weath - er. *f* Fa la la la ___ la

Heed - less of ___ the wind and weath - er. *f* Fa la la la ___ la

26

la la la. *mf* See the blaz - ing

la la la.

30

Yule' be - fore us. *mf* Fa la la la ___ la la la la.

Fa la la ___ la la la la.

34

Strike the harp_ and join the cho - rus. Fa la la la_ la la la

Strike the harp_ and join the cho - rus. Fa la la_ la la la

38

la. *f* Fol - low me in mer - ry mea - sure.

la. *f* Fol - low me_ in mer - ry mea - sure.

41

Fa la la la la. *mf* While I tell_ of Yule - tide trea - sure.

Fa la la la la. *mf* While I tell_ of Yule - tide trea - sure.

45

Fa la la la — la la la la. Fa la la la, —

Fa la la la — la la la la. Fa la la la la, —

49

Fa la la la, — Fa la la la — la la la la. Fa la la la, —

— Fa la la la — la la la la — Fa la la la, —

53

Fa la la la, — Fa la la la — la la la la.

— Fa la la la, Fa la la la — la la la la.